

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

### House Committee on Finance

### SB 2827, SD 1, RELATING TO THE TRAUMA SYSTEM SPECIAL FUND

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
Director of Health

Friday, March 30, 2012, 3:00 pm

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this Administration bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None

**Purpose and Justification:** In 2006, the Legislature established the Trauma System Special Fund  
4 (TSSF) and charged the Department of Health to use the funds to build a comprehensive trauma system  
5 to reduce deaths and disabilities from injury in our state.

6 A comprehensive state trauma system is defined in HRS 321-22.5 as "a coordinated integrated  
7 system providing a spectrum of medical care throughout the State designed to reduce death and  
8 disability by appropriate and timely diagnosis and specialized treatment of injuries, which includes  
9 hospitals with successive levels of advanced capabilities for trauma care in accordance with nationally  
10 accepted standards established by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma"  
11 as outlined by the Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA) in its 2006 document Model  
12 Trauma System Planning and Evaluation, and the American College of Surgeons Committee on  
13 Trauma's Resources for the Optimal Care of the Injured Patient, includes injury prevention as an  
essential component.

The Department currently has a strong injury prevention program, but it is primarily funded through federal funds from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHBG). This year PHHBG funding was reduced by 25%, with further reductions likely in the coming year. The possible elimination of this funding threatens to reduce capacity to address injury in Hawaii. We cannot afford to let that happen, because injury is the leading cause of death and disability in our citizens 1-44 years of age, and also takes a significant toll on our kupuna. Prevention programs are the most cost-effective method to reduce the burden of injury. The language guiding the use of the TSSF currently emphasizes hospital and physician services. The majority of TSSF spending to date has been in those areas, and they will continue to receive the majority of funds. However, this measure will establish the TSSF as a potential source of injury prevention program funding for the future, assuring that the State will have a truly comprehensive trauma system.

The Department would like to add the following language by amending Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 321-22.5, subsection (b), (3) Costs for staff who operate the State's injury prevention program in support of the comprehensive state trauma system.

The Department would also like to request an additional amendment to Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 321-22.5, subsection (g) "For the purposes of this section: "Comprehensive state trauma system" means a coordinated integrated system providing a spectrum of medical care throughout the State designed to reduce death and disability by appropriate and timely diagnosis and specialized treatment of injuries, which includes hospitals with successive levels of advanced capabilities for trauma care in accordance with nationally accepted standards and other components established by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma."

We propose this additional language to clarify that a comprehensive trauma system, as defined by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, includes important components in addition

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1 to hospital care. Examples are a trauma registry and trauma educational activities to assure a prepared  
2 workforce to care for trauma patients.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair

Conference Room 308  
March 30, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. (Agenda #2)

**Supporting SB 2827 SD1: Relating to the Trauma System Special Fund**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 40,000 people. Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of SB 2827 SD 1, which clarifies that the Trauma System Special Fund may be used to pay for staff for the State's injury prevention program.

The Legislature created the Trauma System Special Fund in 2006 to support the continuing development and operation of a comprehensive state trauma system. This initiative was largely in response to a 2005 report by the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons, which found that "Progress in trauma system development in Hawaii has been slow and inconsistent." The report contained a number of recommendations for creating a comprehensive trauma system, including injury prevention and control. This bill explicitly states that the Trauma System Special Fund may be used for injury prevention.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association expresses its support for SB 2827 SD 1.



March 30, 2012, 3:00 pm

The Honorable Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Finance

Dear Chairman Oshiro and Members of the House Committee on Health,

Subject: **Support for SB2827, SD1**

The Injury Prevention Advisory Committee strongly supports SB2827, SD1 which establishes funding for injury prevention under the Trauma System Special Fund. Preventing injuries reduces the burden on the trauma system that is designed to treat those injuries.

Established in 1990, the Injury Prevention Advisory Committee (IPAC) is an advocacy group committed to preventing and reducing injury in Hawai'i. IPAC members include public and private agencies, physicians, and professionals working together to address the eight leading areas of injury.

Injuries are a significant public health concern here in Hawai'i. Injuries take the lives of more children and young adults ages 1-40 years than all other causes of death combined, including heart disease, stroke and cancer. The financial cost of injuries is staggering – in Hawaii, the average annual cost of medical services alone is nearly \$330 million.

A comprehensive Trauma System that includes prevention and rehabilitation in addition to acute care, is critical to Hawaii in reducing injuries and improving the outcomes for those injured. The Department of Health has a strong program that must be maintained as part of a comprehensive Trauma System. In its 2005 review, the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma acknowledged Hawaii's injury prevention program for its accomplishments and important role in an integrated trauma system for Hawaii.

It is an appropriate use of Trauma System Special Funds and good public policy to ensure the reduction of death and disability to Hawaii's people through a comprehensive Trauma System that includes support for injury prevention as a critical core component.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Bruce McEwan, Chair  
Injury Prevention Advisory Committee



Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition

SAFE KIDS Hawaii

March 30, 2012

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance  
State Capitol,  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Subject:       **Support for SB2827, SD1, Relating to the Trauma System Special Fund**

The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC) represents more than forty agencies and individuals who are committed to the protection of the children of Hawai'i from preventable injuries. **KIPC strongly supports SB2827, SD1** which establishes funding for injury prevention under the Trauma System Special Fund.

Injuries take the lives of more children and young adults ages 1-40 years than all other causes of death combined, including heart disease, stroke and cancer. A comprehensive Trauma System that includes prevention and rehabilitation in addition to acute care, is critical to Hawaii in reducing injuries and improving the outcomes for children and youth.

The Department of Health has a strong program that has been instrumental in working with KIPC since 1993 to implement programs and support policies to increase safety practices. One of the most significant examples of our partnership that resulted in improved safety practices and lives saved is the statewide system of child safety seat installations and community car seat checkups by trained child passenger safety specialists. These car seat checkups continue to be provided to the public free of charge through established installation sites and community checkup events statewide and have contributed to child passenger restraint use doubling between 1997 and 2008.

A comprehensive Trauma System that includes support for injury prevention as a critical core component will help to ensure the reduction of death and disability to Hawaii's children and youth and people of all ages. We urge you to support the passage of SB 2827, SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 691-5900

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

March 30, 2012 – 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

**In Support of S.B. 2827, SD1 Relating to the Trauma System Special Fund**

Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Caesar Ursic, MD, FACS, Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery JABSOM and Trauma Medical Director of The Queen's Medical Center (QMC), testifying on S.B. 2827, SD1 which expands the use of the Trauma System Special fund to allow the fund to be applied towards supporting the staffing of the Department of Health's injury prevention program. QHS supports this measure, recognizing that the work of the injury prevention program is an essential part of the State's comprehensive trauma system. We believe supporting its staffing with the Trauma System Special fund is an appropriate and related use of the fund.

The Trauma System Special fund was created in 2006 to provide support to all Hawaii hospitals that provide care to trauma patients. The Department of Health, hospitals that provide care to trauma patients, and the Healthcare Association of Hawaii collaborated to support the fund's creation and funding mechanisms to ensure the highest quality of trauma care for the people of Hawaii. As the heart of the State's trauma care system, QMC provided care for more than 2,000 patients with trauma related injuries in 2010. This includes providing state of the art equipment and 24/7 on call physicians to provide the emergent trauma care. The pressure on hospitals is exacerbated by the high cost of providing care to these patients, who are often very critical and require extensive support. QHS appreciates the Legislature's continued recognition that trauma care is a public health priority.

QHS further appreciates the Department of Health's Injury prevention efforts which are necessary to reduce the burden of injury for Hawaii and as such, its need to ensure appropriate staffing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.